

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

**BUREAU**

**BGM**

REPORT MADE AT  <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE  <b>7/14/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE  <b>7/9-11, 13, 14/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY  <b>RICHARD L. DELP</b>
TITLE  <b>CECIL BLOUNT DE MILLE</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC LAW 402, 80th CONGRESS (VOICE OF AMERICA)</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Mr. DE MILLE attended American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York City. Mr. DE MILLE's employment CHARLES FROHMAN Co.; DANIEL FROHMAN Co.; Mrs. HENRY C. DE MILLE Play Brokers, Inc.; DAVID BELASCO; JESSE L. LASKY; all in New York from 1899 to 1912, verified by associates. Associates recommend highly regarding character, reputation, associates, and loyalty to United States. Derogatory information pertaining to Mr. DE MILLE's nieces, New York City, set forth. Credit records reflect no New York City trade, but contains news clipping re tax litigation in 1935. No criminal record New York City.

RUC

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau letter to Los Angeles dated 7/7/53.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/15/87 BY sp7mac/ddl

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT  7 - Bureau  1 - New York (123-10041)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 31 JUL 15 1953 </div>

NY 123-10041

DETAILS:

Education

American Academy of Dramatic Arts  
245 West 52nd Street, New York City

MARIE MEYER, Business Manager, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, advised that records reflected Mr. de MILLE had attended that institute for two six month semesters from 1899 to 1900. She stated that the information contained on the record was limited to the above and that there was no one who would recall Mr. de MILLE.

Employment

*Recalled*  
CHARLES CONKLIN, Bookkeeper, The Lambs Club, 130 West 44th Street, New York City, stated that CHARLES FROHMAN, DAVID FROHMAN and DAVID BELASCO had been members of that club during the period Mr. de MILLE was an active member and that they are all dead. He stated that he believes JESSE L. LASKY is now living in Hollywood, California. He further advised that although Mr. de MILLE is still a member of that club, he, Mr. de MILLE, has not been an active member since 1917.

CONRAD NAGEL and JAMES E. MEIGHAN, both members of the Lambs Club advised, when interviewed at the Lambs Club, that Mr. de MILLE had been associated with CHARLES FROHMAN, DANIEL FROHMAN, his mother, Mrs. HENRY C. de MILLE, DAVID BELASCO, and JESSE L. LASKY in New York City from about 1899 to 1912 at which time he moved to Hollywood, California. They stated that, although they had not been associated with Mr. de MILLE during the period of his employment in New York City, they believed it was common knowledge that Mr. de MILLE had been employed as set forth above.

Mr. NAGEL stated that he had started acting in moving pictures under the direction of Mr. de MILLE in 1920 and that he has known him as a personal friend and business associate since that time. He stated that he has met Mr. de MILLE'S brother, WILLIAM C. de MILLE and other members of Mr. de MILLE'S family occasionally during the time he was in California.



NY 123-10041

Mr. MEIGHAN stated that he had met Mr. de MILLE about 1915 and that his brother, THOMAS MEIGHAN, had worked with Mr. de MILLE for many years. He stated that he had met Mr. de MILLE'S brother on a few occasions but did not know other members of Mr. de MILLE'S family.

Mr. NAGEL and Mr. MEIGHAN both advised that Mr. de MILLE was respected by everyone who knew him and that he is a man of strong convictions. They stated that Mr. de MILLE has fought the Communist infiltration of the Film Industry for years and is completely loyal to the United States. They stated that they were not close associates of Mr. de MILLE'S family and did not know Mr. de MILLE'S nieces who reside in New York City.

Mr. NAGEL and Mr. MEIGHAN advised that they did not know how close Mr. de MILLE was to members of his family and that they had never discussed politics with the members of Mr. de MILLE'S family. They stated that it was their opinion that Mr. de MILLE and members of his family were all loyal United States citizens and that they had never heard anything to make them think otherwise.

Miss GLORIA SWANSON, 920 5th Avenue, New York City, advised that she had gone to work for Mr. de MILLE in 1917 and has been a close friend and business associate of his since that time. She stated that she thought it was common knowledge in the theatrical world that Mr. de MILLE during the early 1900's was associated with CHARLES FROHMAN, DANIEL FROHMAN, Mrs. HENRY C. de MILLE, DAVID BELASCO and JESSE L. LASKY.

Miss SWANSON stated that she realized the threat to the United States by the Communist Party as early as 1937 and that she has been fighting the Communists since that time. She stated that because of her concern regarding Communism she maintained a careful watch of her associates and soon learned who were loyal Americans. She stated Mr. de MILLE was a loyal American and that she would highly recommend Mr. de MILLE for a position of trust.

NY 123-10041

Miss SWANSON advised that she has met Mr. de MILLE'S brother and children on a few occasions when she was in California but that she had not discussed politics with them. She stated she believed they, Mr. de MILLE'S family were loyal Americans because she had never heard anything unfavorable concerning them and because Mr. de MILLE was completely loyal. Miss SWANSON stated that she had formed the opinion that there was a feeling of professional jealousy between Mr. de MILLE and his brother and that because of this Mr. de MILLE was not very closely associated with his brother or his brother's family.

*political  
ideologies*

LOIS WILSON, Radio and Television Actress, when interviewed at the home of Miss GLORIA SWANSON advised that she has known Mr. de MILLE casually since about 1919 and that she had worked with Mr. de MILLE'S brother at different times. She stated that she believes Mr. de MILLE and his brother are not as close as most brothers and that she believes they have conflicting personalities. She stated that she did not know any of the other members of Mr. de MILLE'S family. She stated that she has never discussed politics with Mr. de MILLE or his brother but that she believed them to be loyal Americans because of their reputations.

*political  
ideologies*

Doctor MARION STRANAHAN, MD, who specializes in psychiatry, 222 West 9th Street, New York City, advised that she treated Mrs. MARGARET de MILLE KAPLAN for a period of about three years. She stated Mrs. KAPLAN is a niece of Mr. CECIL B. de MILLE but that she does not believe Mrs. KAPLAN is closely associated with Mr. de MILLE. She stated that Mrs. KAPLAN had been ill but that she was cured now. She stated that she had never met Mr. de MILLE and that Mrs. KAPLAN rarely spoke of Mr. de MILLE. She stated that she did not know AGNES de MILLE PRUDE who is Mrs. KAPLAN'S sister.

Mr. CARLTON L. FISHEL, Trifari, Krussman, and Fishel, 16 East 40th Street, New York City, advised that he is acquainted with Mrs. MARGARET de MILLE KAPLAN but that he has never met Mrs. KAPLAN'S sister, AGNES PRUDE or other members of her family. He stated that Mrs. KAPLAN had remarked that her uncle was CECIL B. de MILLE but that she had never mentioned anything concerning Mr. de MILLE other than their relationship. He stated that he believed Mrs. KAPLAN is a person of good character, reputation, associates and loyalty.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

NY 123-10041

AUSTIN KEOUGH, Chief, Legal Counsel, Paramount Pictures Theatres Corporation, 1501 Broadway, advised SA JOHN P. TUTTLE, JR. that he has known and has been closely associated with Mr. de MILLE since approximately 1921. He stated he is a man of excellent character and reputation and a thoroughly loyal and intensely patriotic American citizen. He is a man of great ability, a widely read and an intelligent person who has made a success in the banking and real estate field as well as in the motion picture industry. He advised that Mr. de MILLE is a strong and reasonable man and one whom he would recommend for any position involving trust and confidence. Mr. KEOUGH advised that he is acquainted with Mr. de MILLE's wife and brother, WILLIAM. He advised that they are of good reputation and nothing has ever come to his attention that would reflect unfavorably upon them in any manner. He stated that he was mainly acquainted with WILLIAM de MILLE when he, de MILLE, was in the movie industry about ten or fifteen years ago, but has not had too much contact with him since that time. He advised that he is not acquainted with WILLIAM de MILLE's two daughters. He stated that Mr. CECIL B. de MILLE was formerly associated with DAVID BEGLASCO, a number of years ago in New York on the legitimate stage, but since that time has confined his efforts to the motion picture industry in California.

Mr. ADOLPH ZUKOR, Chairman of the Board, Paramount Pictures Theatres Corporation, 1501 Broadway, advised SA JOHN P. TUTTLE, Jr. that he has been acquainted with Mr. de MILLE for the past forty years. He is an outstanding and successful businessman, a credit to his profession and a credit to anything which he undertakes. He is a responsible, competent man of unusual ability, a completely loyal American citizen and a person who takes great interest in civic affairs. Mr. ZUKOR advised that he is acquainted with Mr. de MILLE's family and stated that they are people of good character and reputation. He advised that Mr. de MILLE's brother, WILLIAM de MILLE, has two daughters and he knew them years ago when they were children, but has no present knowledge of them, other than the fact that they reside in New York. Mr. ZUKOR advised that from his knowledge and association with Mr. CECIL B. de MILLE he can highly recommend him to any

5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

NY 123-10041

position involving trust and confidence. He stated that he has never heard of anything that would reflect unfavorably upon any member of Mr. de MILLE's family.

Mr. JACK MARTIN, Secretary to United States Senator ROBERT A. TAFT, was located at the New York Hospital, 525 East 68th Street, where Senator TAFT is recuperating from a recent operation, advised SA JOHN P. TUTTLE, Jr. that Senator TAFT's doctors have advised him to cease all business activity and therefore, it would not be possible to interview Senator TAFT.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

NY 123-10041

MISCELLANEOUS

BURTON JACOBY and KENNETH GROOT, both employed by the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, 15 West 44 Street, New York City, advised that Mr. deMILLE is a member not in good standing, of that union. They stated that Mr. deMILLE had been a member of that union since February 13, 1939, but had been a member not in good standing since 1944 when Mr. deMILLE had refused to pay a union assessment of one dollar. They stated the State of California Legislature in 1944 attempted to pass a bill which would outlaw closed union shops. They stated the union was fighting the bill and had assessed all members one dollar to obtain money for legal council. They stated Mr. deMILLE did not approve of the assessment and had refused to pay it. They stated that Mr. deMILLE is a man of strong principles and his trouble with the union would not reflect unfavorably regarding his character.

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised

[redacted] b7D  
[redacted] T-1  
advised [redacted]

T-1 advised that announcements concerning the National Council of American Soviet Friendship's work were made and among other things, the formation of a dance committee under the leadership of one AGNES deMILLE, not further identified, was announced.

Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, advised

[redacted]

It is to be noted that Mr. JOSEPH PETERACCA, Elevator Operator, 25 East 9th Street, New York City, who has been in this position for twelve years, advised that Mrs. ANNA GEORGE deMILLE and her daughters, MARGARET deMILLE and AGNES deMILLE, resided at this address until Mrs. ANNA GEORGE deMILLE died. He stated that AGNES deMILLE and her husband, WALTER PRUDE, are presently tenants of this building.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

NY 123-10041

Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, advised

[REDACTED]

T-3 also advised that

[REDACTED]

Confidential Informant T-4, of known reliability, advised

[REDACTED]

It is to be noted that the National Council of American Soviet Friendship has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835. - 10700

On March 3, 1945, the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade had an ad published in the "New York Times" entitled, "For America's Sake Break with Franco Spain." Among the individuals listed who sponsored and supported this statement, was one AGNES DEMILLE.

It is to be noted that the Abraham Lincoln Brigade has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835. - 10700

Confidential Informant T-5, of known reliability, advised

[REDACTED]

Confidential Informant T-6, of known reliability, advised that a function was to be held at the Ziegfeld Theater on April 27, 1947, called "Dance Salute to the Spanish Republicans in Exile." T-6 indicated that this was a function of the

[REDACTED]

Confidential Informant T-7, of known reliability, advised in June, 1948, that the Spanish Refugee Appeal is the name used by the Joint Anti Fascist Refugee Committee.



NY 123-10041

The Joint Anti Fascist Refugee Committee has been declared by the Attorney General to be within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Confidential Informant T-8, of known reliability, advised that at a dinner held under the auspices of the Joint Anti Fascist Refugee Committee, in honor of the "Spanish Republicans in Exile and Their Staunch American Friends" [redacted]

b7D

In the September 26, 1949 issue of the "Daily Worker" an East Coast Communist newspaper, appears an article captioned "Spanish Refugee Appeal Dance Festival, October 5." This article reflects that "twelve leading interpreters of the modern dance will appear at the 4th annual dance festival at Carnegie Hall, Wednesday, October 5, it was announced yesterday by JOHN MARTIN, Chairman of the annual event sponsored by the Spanish Refugee Appeal Committee." Among the names of the artists who will perform was listed one AGNES DEMILLE, not further identified.

Confidential Informant T-9, of known reliability, advised that records of the "The Challenge" newspaper, reflect that among those in the New York area who might possibly be interested in contributing money to said newspaper [redacted]

Confidential Informant T-10, of known reliability, a former responsible official of "The Challenge" newspaper, advised that the publication was dominated by the Communist Party.

The April 3, 1952, edition of the "Daily Worker" contained an article entitled, "Dancers Protest Sending of City Ballet to Franco Spain. Top Dancers and Choreographers Have Joined Almost 200 Professionals in the Arts and Theater Arts Urging Mayor Impellitteri in His Capacity as President of the City Center to Cancel the Forthcoming Goodwill Engagement of the New York City Ballet in Barcelona, Spain, the First Stop in a Tour of Western Europe."

The article continues, "the signers declared that this cultural overture in the name of New York City toward the only surviving partner of Hitler and Mussolini is unthinkable. Franco Spain is still a land of fascism, a land of religious persecution and of poverty and a stultified culture. Shall we

NY 123-10041

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

now abandon the tradition established by great artists such as Toscanini, Martha, Graham and Caspary, when they refused to perform in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy?". Among signers of this protest was one AGNES de MILLE, not further identified.

Confidential Informant T-11, of known reliability,

b7D

Board of Elections for Westchester County, White Plains, New York, as reviewed by SA JAMES E. GORDON reflected the following information concerning MARGARET de MILLE KAPLAN:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Party Preference</u>
1952	110 Maple Avenue, New Rochelle, New York	One of the two major political parties.
1951	110 Maple Avenue, New Rochelle, New York	One of the two major political parties.
1950	110 Maple Avenue, New Rochelle, New York	One of the two major political parties.
1949	110 Maple Avenue, New Rochelle, New York	Liberal Party.
1948	110 Maple Avenue, New Rochelle, New York	One of the two major political parties. Reflected last voted in 1947 from 1956 West 74th Street, New York City.
1947	158 West 74th Street	Liberal Party
1946	156 West 74th Street	American Labor Party. Indicated last registered in 1945 while residing at 25 East Ninth Street, New York City.
1945	25 East Ninth Street	One of the two major political parties.

30 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)



NY 123-10041

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Party Preference</u>
1944	25 East Ninth Street	One of the two major political parties.
1943	25 East Ninth Street	American Labor Party.
1942	25 East Ninth Street	One of the two major political parties.
1941	25 East Ninth Street	One of the two major political parties.
1940	25 East Ninth Street	Blank. Indicated that she last registered in 1934 in Los Angeles, California.

The "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications" dated March 3, 1951, prepared and released by the Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., contains the following concerning the American Labor Party:

**"American Labor Party**

"1. 'For years, the Communists have put forth the greatest efforts to capture the entire American Labor Party throughout New York State. They succeeded in capturing the Manhattan and Brooklyn sections of the American Labor Party but outside of New York City they have been unable to win control.' (Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, March 29, 1944, Page 75.)

"2. Among 'organizations that are victims of Communist domination.' (California Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, Pages 40 and 41.)"

Reliable confidential informants, who have a knowledge of some of the Communist Party activities in the New York City area, advised that AGNES deMILLE PRUDY and MARGARET deMILLE KAPLAN were unknown to them.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (U)

NY 123-10041

CREDIT

The files of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York were checked and Special Employee RICHARD F. O'HARA was advised that there was no New York trade listed concerning Mr. CECIL B. de MILLE but that there was an article in the "New York Times" dated February 1, 1935, furnished by the Associated Press, Washington, D.C., which disclosed that CECIL B. de MILLE was upheld by the Board of Tax Appeals today in his fight against Treasury Tax Claims exceeding \$1,500,000.00. Internal Revenue Bureau had claimed \$1,486,317.00 was owed by CECIL B. de MILLE Production, Incorporated for accumulating surplusses beyond reasonable needs of business to avoid surtax by stock holders. Contended de MILLE owed \$189,487.00 but tax board agreed with DE MILLE that wife's earnings should not be included.

CRIMINAL

The files of the New York City Police Department were checked and SA AUGUST J. MICEK was advised that there was no record for CECIL B. de MILLE or any member of his family.

RUC